

Appl. No.: 09/776,576

Filed: February 2, 2001

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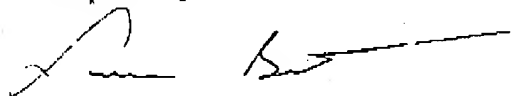
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the examiner for indicating Claim 8 contains patentable subject matter. All pending Claims in the application have either been made dependent on Claim 8 or have cancelled to expedite allowance of the application. Claims 1 through 7, and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 9, 10, 12, 13, and 16 through 18 have been amended to depend from Claim 8. New Claims 19 through 24 depend from Claim 8 and include subject matter previously presented in Claims 2 through 7.

It is respectfully submitted that all of pending Claims 8 through 10, 12, 13, 16 through 18, and new Claims 19 through 24 are now in condition for immediate allowance and an early notification of the allowability of these claims is earnestly solicited. If any matters remain to be resolved, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at 704-444-1021 to expedite prosecution of this application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



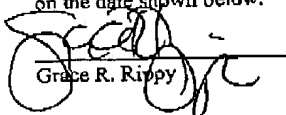
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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. 703-872-9306 on the date shown below.


Grace R. Rippe

August 18, 2004
Date